Law Enforcement Division Bi-Weekly Field Report 6/29/08 – 7/12/08

DISTRICT 1

CO Mark Leadman and Sgt. Pete Wright contacted an angler on Goldmine Lake who was fishing without a license. Further checking revealed a valid warrant for the subject with a bond amount of \$2000. The subject was transported and lodged in the Marquette County jail.

CO Mark Leadman responded to a complaint of noise and partying in a Gwinn area state forest campground. The campsite was located and the responsible party was ticketed for failing to pay for their site. In addition, a large snapping turtle was located at their campsite that had been captured. A ticket was issued for possession of a turtle out of season and the turtle was released.

CO Chris Holmes was the first on scene of a fatal rollover car accident in a remote part of Dickinson County. CO Holmes rendered first aid and consoled the victim for approximately 10 minutes before emergency crews arrived at the scene. The driver was pinned in the vehicle and later died of severe internal injuries.

CO Brian Bacon contacted a group of anglers who were using ORVs illegally to gain access to a local lake. The subjects were pulling their boats into the lake with their ORVs on an illegally made trail. The ORVs were also found to be unregistered.

CO Brian Bacon was called to a local lake where four kids had capsized their canoe and were in the water. All four subjects were wearing their personal flotation devices (PFDs) and were pulled from the water by CO Bacon and transported back to shore. No injuries were reported after being in the water for 30 minutes.

COs Matt Eberly, Brett Gustafson, Dennis Gast, and Sgt. Pete Wright worked an ORV patrol off the tip of the Keweenaw Peninsula. They were targeting illegal ORV operation on a large tract of state land that was recently acquired. Four ORV operators were contacted and ticketed for illegally operating their ORVs in prohibited areas.

DISTRICT 2

CO Kyle Publiski and a trooper with the Michigan State Police (MSP) responded to a marine distress call where a large vessel had lost power in the waters between Cass Island and St Joseph Island. Despite having dropped anchor, the vessel and occupants were in danger of being driven into an area of reefs and boulders. CO Publiski and the trooper were able to get a line to the distressed vessel and tow the craft into safer waters.

CO Reid Roeske assisted the MSP with a barricaded gunman in Rapid River. The incident began as a domestic situation and escalated to the subject firing several shots into the air from the front porch. The subject was arrested without injury to anyone involved.

CO Jerry Fitzgibbon assisted a boater on Autrain Lake who had too many passengers on his boat. With only inches of freeboard and a strong wind picking up, the boater was not able to make it to shore without assistance. CO Fitzgibbon brought one person into the patrol boat and then guided the boater to shore. A ticket was issued for not having enough life jackets on board.

CO Trey Luce followed up on information provided by CO John Wenzel and Sgt. Darryl Shann regarding an illegal dive charter. Last fall CO Wenzel and Sgt. Shann assisted with a fish study off Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. During the dive, the boat operator stated he was volunteering his time and his boat. After the trip, it was found that the boat operator charged \$1400 for two separate trips. CO Luce issued a ticket for operating an unlicensed charter boat.

DISTRICT 3

COs Bobbi Bashore and William Webster handled a personal injury boating accident on Long Lake in Alpena County. The victim was windsurfing and reportedly suffered a broken pelvis and other internal injuries after he was struck by a motorboat. The investigation is ongoing.

CO Nick Torsky responded to a complaint in the Pigeon River Country state forest regarding camping in a prohibited area/adjacent to a special regulation trout lake. CO Torsky located the camp within 15 yards of a sign stating "No camping". The campsite was littered with beer cans and other trash. A large live white birch tree had been chopped down and no camp registration card had been posted. Two tickets were issued for the intentional state land use violations.

CO Andrea Albert and Sgt. Jim Gorno worked the Torch Lake sandbar on the 4th of July. The COs encountered hundreds of boaters and several tickets were issued for operating personal watercraft (PWCs) after hours. The COs assisted local deputies with the arrest of an intoxicated boater and several assaults that occurred near the access site. The COs also coordinated the fireworks marine event over Torch Lake.

While on marine patrol on Torch Lake, CO Andrea Albert observed a subject operating a pontoon boat which was dragging two anchors in the water. CO Albert stopped the boater and observed his inability to maneuver around on the boat deck. After sobriety tests, he was subsequently arrested for operating while impaired.

CO Michael Feagan and Sgt. Greg Drogowski were patrolling Burt Lake when they observed a PWC passenger throw a beer can. The COs stopped the operator and passenger, who both fell off the PWC and were unable to get back on. Both subjects

were taken on board the patrol boat. The passenger was intoxicated, but the driver was sober. A littering ticket was issued and the subjects transported back to shore, along with their PWC.

CO Eric Bottorff assisted in the search for a drowning victim on Kleeber Pond. The victim was found in eight feet of water. Initial reports indicate he was alone and fell out of a motorized canoe.

CO Richard Stowe responded to a rail trail complaint involving a broken gate and a motorized vehicle. CO Stowe found a juvenile on an antique tractor on the rail trail. The juvenile was escorted home and the issue discussed with his parents.

DISTRICT 4

While participating in a joint USFS patrol of the Pine River in Manistee County, CO Jair Kollasch and CO Sam Koscinski dealt with a disorderly subject after they witnessed him indecently expose himself in the middle of the river. Several other boaters received tickets for marine safety infractions.

CO Diane Drogowski was patrolling a rural area of Grand Traverse County when she was flagged down by a husband and wife who appeared to be in distress. The couple explained that their dog had run into a porcupine and had quills all over his face. CO Drogowski assisted the couple in removing the quills out of the dog's nose and face while the owners held him down.

CO Mike Wells checked two anglers on the Muskegon River in Newaygo County. As he approached, the two individuals called out that they had been checked earlier in the day by CO Ryan Rademacher and did not feel they needed to be checked again. CO Wells confirmed that license checks had been made earlier In the day but felt that a creel check was in order. Subjects were found to be in possession of several undersize trout and a short bass. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Steve Converse, Carla Soper, Jair Kollasch, Sam Koscinski and Carolyn Dice conducted a special patrol on the Pine River in Manistee County. The patrol focused on complaints of persons littering, being intoxicated, smoking marijuana and minors drinking alcohol. Several subjects were ticketed for failing to have life preservers and fishing without licenses.

CO Jim Espinoza and Sgt. Kevin Hackworth were at a gas dock on Hamlin Lake when they observed a subject spinning around on a jetski near a dock. The operator was not wearing a lanyard and was approximately 10 feet from another person on a jetski with a small child. A ticket was issued.

CO Carolyn Dice received a complaint that someone had created a road around a berm built by DNR Forest, Mineral and Fire Management personnel to keep out illegal campers and ORV operators on public land. A visit to the site resulted in the

apprehension of the persons responsible for the damage. The subjects had set up a campsite at the end of their illegally made road.

CO Steve Converse made a deer case after having a conversation with an angler on the Manistee River about his deer season success. The angler bragged about bagging a nine point buck last season but still had all of his kill tags in his wallet. He later confessed to using a kill tag purchased by his wife to tag the animal.

CO Troy Vangelderen received a complaint regarding an ice fishing shanty on the bottom of Silver Lake in Oceana County. CO Vangelderen responded with his scuba gear and obtained a partial name and address from off the side of the shanty. The owner of the shanty was located, enforcement action was taken, and the shanty removed by the owner.

DISTRICT 5

While on patrol checking for ORV activity, CO William Cherry located a subject with a load of firewood freshly cut off state land. The subject had not purchased a fuelwood permit and had multiple vehicle violations. The subject was ticketed and the firewood was seized.

CO John Huspen received a complaint from a subject who got his anchor caught in a submerged net in a small lake. CO Huspen went to the location and contacted two subjects with a grapple hook in their boat. CO Huspen located and retrieved the gill net which had caught several fish. Confessions were obtained from both subjects that they had placed the net to catch fish.

CO Mike Hearn followed large tractor tire tracks for several miles on state land and located a site where firewood had been recently cut. CO Hearn backtracked to a residence where the subject, his tractor, and the wood were located. The subject admitted to cutting the wood without a permit and driving the tractor to the site.

CO John Huspen observed two subjects in a canoe passing a cigarette between them. The subjects were contacted and the marijuana cigarette and an additional bag of marijuana were confiscated. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn contacted a subject who was keeping a wild raccoon at her residence and was told she had released it several days earlier. While they were talking, CO Hearn heard a scratching on a door in the house. The subject told him it was her bird, but later admitted it was the raccoon. The raccoon was seized and enforcement action was taken.

CO Mark Lutz contacted a camper who had been living on state land for several months by making a road cross country in a remote area. While ticketing the subject for camping without a permit, the subject became abusive and resisted arrest. CO Lutz

and local deputies took the subject into custody and located numerous marijuana plants at the camp, along with a loaded .22 cal. rifle in the subject's vehicle.

Sgt. Jean Davis, COs Chuck McPherson, Chris Bowen and William Cherry participated in a joint patrol with Gerrish Township Police, MSP and Roscommon County Sheriff's Department deputies to address underage drinking, alcohol related problems, assaults, and marine safety violations at the South Higgins Lake State Park and on Higgins Lake. The two-day enforcement effort resulted in 21 arrests for alcohol violations and additional arrests for criminal trespass, gross indecency, resist and obstruct a police officer, furnish alcohol to minors, marine safety violations, DNR violations, and arrests on outstanding warrants.

While on patrol on Hubbard Lake, CO Brian Engelhard checked an angler who stated that over half of the walleye he was catching were undersized. A check of the subject's fish produced an undersized walleye hidden in a cooler. A ticket was issued.

While on marine patrol on Hubbard Lake, CO Brian Engelhard observed a PWC operating at a high rate of speed come very close to swimmers in the water. Upon stopping the PWC, the operator stated he was unaware of the 100 foot law. CO Engelhard issued him a ticket for the safety violation.

CO Warren MacNeill responded to a complaint of an individual intentionally burning an abandoned house. CO MacNeill contacted the individual and obtained a confession to the intentional burning and issued him a ticket for unlawful disposal of solid waste.

CO Tami Pullen, while patrolling the VanEttan State Forest Campground, encountered a large party of individuals who were loud and disorderly. Further investigation revealed several minors in possession of alcohol. Several tickets were issued for disorderly, minors in possession, and unregistered camps.

CO Rebecca Hopkins responded to a complaint of a disorderly person in Tawas Point State Park. CO Hopkins located the disorderly individual and evicted her after observing her disruptive behavior.

CO Steve Lockwood located a loud, disruptive campsite in the House Lake State Forest Campground. There were several intoxicated adults walking around the campsite fully nude. Tickets for disorderly person were issued.

CO Joel Lundberg, while on patrol in the Trout Lake State Forest Campground, contacted individuals at three separate loud and disorderly campsites and found subjects in possession of marijuana on all three sites. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol on Wixom Lake, CO Joel Lundberg stopped a boat being operated by minors in possession of alcohol. CO Lundberg advised the subjects of the dangers of their actions and also issued them tickets for minors in possession and relieved them of the contraband alcohol.

At 1:00 a.m., CO Joel Lundberg was investigating an illegal ORV complaint when a BOL was broadcast for a vehicle involved in a felonious assault. The dispatcher could hear gunshots being fired in the background while on the phone with the victim, who was uninjured. A short time later, CO Lundberg passed the suspect vehicle and called for backup. After stopping the vehicle, CO Lundberg found a shotgun loaded with slugs in the passenger's lap. The driver was intoxicated and marijuana and open alcohol containers were also found in the vehicle. The subjects were arrested for various charges. The driver admitted that after leaving the scene of the assault, they were going "deer hunting".

DISTRICT 6

While patrolling on the Saginaw River during the Bay City fireworks, COs Larn Strawn, Jason A. Smith and Ken Lowell responded to a complaint of a disorderly person at a local marina. The disorderly subject was operating a vessel and when he abruptly pulled away from the marina and collided with the docks. The COs discovered the subject was intoxicated and enforcement action was taken.

COs Phil Hudson, Nick Atkin and Sgt. Kimmerly were patrolling the Saginaw River during the fireworks and observed a vessel exceeding the slow, no-wake zone. The COs made contact and after conducting field sobriety tests the operator of the vessel was found to be operating the vessel while intoxicated. The subject was lodged in the county jail for operating a vessel while impaired.

After receiving a complaint of illegally marked commercial fish nets, COs Nick Atkin and Larry Desloover investigated the area of the complaints on the Saginaw Bay. The COs discovered many illegally marked commercial fish nets. The COs contacted the commercial fisherman who admitted to not marking his nets properly. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni was contacted by a complainant who advised that anglers were taking overlimits of walleye in Saginaw Bay. CO Pennoni contacted the subjects and found the four anglers in possession of 39 walleyes. Tickets were issued and the fish were seized.

While patrolling Littlefield Lake in Isabella County, CO Jeremy Payne came across a man fishing with one line from a paddle boat. When the subject saw the CO he returned to his dock and began reeling up additional lines that were on his dock. The subject had a total of five lines in the water and stated that two lines belonged to his children who were having breakfast. After an interview with the adult children, it was revealed they had been sleeping while the father was fishing. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Daniel Lee and Phil Hudson were preparing for patrol in Saginaw when they observed a vessel breaking the slow, no-wake zone law near the boat launch. They boarded their patrol boat and stopped the operator, who was operating while

intoxicated. The subject has seven previous similar convictions. Enforcement action was taken.

While on patrol CO Jason A. Smith stopped an ORV on the roadway. The subject had no helmet, was operating the unregistered ORV on the roadway on a suspended license, and was wanted on a bench warrant. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Holly Pennoni ticketed a boater for careless operation on the Saginaw River while working the holiday weekend. The boater was operating too close to another boat and struck the other boat's dingy. No damage was done to either boat.

DISTRICT 7

COs Jeff Robinette and Steve Mooney worked the South Haven fireworks show on Sunday, July 6th. After completion of the fireworks, COs observed a boat being operated without a front navigation light. COs contacted the operator and upon investigation, arrested the subject for drunk operation of a vessel. The subject was lodged in the Van Buren County Jail.

CO Steve Mooney and Sgt. Bob Torres were patrolling Lake Michigan at South Haven when they observed a PWC being operated inside a designated swim area. The operator was stopped and, during the contact, the owner of the PWC swam out to the scene and attempted to ride off with his PWC. CO Mooney prevented the owner from leaving the scene until the investigation was completed. It was later found that complaints had been called in on these subjects and apparently they had been previously warned by the Sheriff's Marine Division for their actions.

CO Patrick McManus handled a trash dumping complaint in the Gun River in Allegan County. His investigation revealed the subject had left behind a box containing components and residual materials from a meth lab. The dumping complaint has expanded to a drug investigation which continues at this time.

CO Dave Rodgers responded to a report of an angler making an unusual catch at the 6th Street Dam on the Grand River. The fish turned out to be a large red bellied piranha and was turned over to Fisheries Division.

DISTRICT 8

While working the Portage Lake chain of lakes, COs Jason J. Smith and Damon Owens assisted a stranded vessel. The vessel operator had been pulling a subject on a tube when the tow rope became entangled in the prop. The COs assisted the vessel operator in clearing the prop and made sure the vessel was operating properly.

While working the Portage Lake fireworks, CO Jason J. Smith and Sgt. Joe Kellam observed several PWCs operating well after the legal hours. Enforcement action was taken.

While working a group patrol, COs Josh Wright, Damon Owens, Dan Prince, Jason J. Smith, Rich Nichols, and Jeff Walker observed numerous violations during the holiday weekend including; operating personal watercraft after the legal hours, towing skiers without an observer, 100 foot rule violations, fishing without licenses, bow riding, fail to provide PFDs, and slow, no-wake violations. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Rich Nichols and Sgt. Troy Bahlau arrested a vessel operator for operating a vessel while intoxicated. The subject was uncooperative and very belligerent. The subject's blood alcohol content was determined to be over twice the legal limit so he was lodged in the county jail.

DISTRICT 9

COs Kris Kiel and Todd Szyska conducted joint marine patrols over the holiday weekend. On one patrol they contacted two anglers fishing. Each subject had three undersized smallmouth bass. Later in the patrol they contacted two anglers fishing from another boat. The subjects had a total of five lines and 13 smallmouth bass, 11 of which were undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach received a complaint about someone selling venison via the internet. With assistance from a Resource Protection Section detective and CO Ben Lasher, a purchase was made from the subject advertising two bags of venison for sale. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach was patrolling over the 4th of July weekend and came across a small group of juveniles camping in the game area. They were in possession of alcohol and had thrown their marijuana into the fire when they saw CO Kovach approach. They had also driven their 4x4 pickup past the parking lot and up a steep hill before setting up camp. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Danny Walzak, Ben Shively, Ken Kovach, Brad Brewer, Cpl. Andrew Turner, Sgt. Arthur Green and Lt. David Malloch assisted the USCG and patrolled the Gold Cup Hydro Plane Race on the Detroit River over a three day period. CO Danny Walzak and Sgt. Arthur Green responded to a call of an unknown boater on the race course. The subject was located and issued a ticket for violating the slow, no-wake zone on the Detroit River. The boater was advised that he passed two Detroit Police patrol boats before entering the race course. The course was marked with eight foot buoys.

CO Brandon Kieft was conducting an evening marine patrol on a small Oakland County lake when he observed a mother and two sons fishing from a pontoon boat. As he approached the boat, the mother put her fishing pole down and began to drive her boat away. After stopping the boat, CO Kieft found that the mother didn't have a fishing license. Further investigation revealed her pontoon boat had not been registered since 2004. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kieft was checking incoming boats at a small access site in Oxford, when a 14 year old boy pulled through the parking lot on a two-wheel dirt bike. CO Kieft stopped the boy and found that the dirt bike had never had an ORV sticker on it, the title had not been transferred over to the current owner, and there was no parental supervision. CO Kieft followed the young man back to a nearby residence and advised his mother of all of the violations. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 25

CFS Officers Steve Huff, John Morey, and Craig Milkowski worked the entire Fourth of July Holiday weekend patrolling the "no boat zone" for the Navy Blue Angels "air show fly zone". It was the first time that they had a three day air show and with perfect weather both Saturday and Sunday, the air show drew huge crowds but not as many as expected for the Fourth of July opener show.